

and buff on the outer, very feeble towards the tips, which are mottled on both webs with brown and chestnut; the tail brown, thickly mottled, and faintly barred with chestnut; lores and sides of face very light chestnut, the feathers delicately fringed with brown; basal plumes black-tipped; ear-tufts rudimentary, and scarcely to be detected; under surface of the body light chestnut, richly mottled and irregularly barred with white, and arrow-shaped black streaks down the centres of the feathers; under tail-coverts buffy white, with a pale rufous bar near the end, and white tip; the under wing-coverts pale buff; the underside of the primaries dark brown, and the inner webs of the secondaries light buff; feathering of the legs short and close, of rich rufous chestnut and faint blackish bars and spots; tarsi very strong, and entirely bare, excepting a very narrow line of plumage for a quarter of an inch from the joint in front; the whole of the back part of the joint to the end of the tibia entirely bare; tarsi and feet clear amber-colour, and very strong and stout; claws brown at the base, black at the tip; bill horn-colour, with the tip of the upper mandible dark brown. Total length 9·75 inches, wing 6·8, tail 3·2, tarsus 1·4, middle toe with claw 1·45.

Mahé, Seychelles Islands, April 1880.

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XLV.—*Remarks on two Species of Halcyon.*

By E. L. LAYARD.

(Plate XV.)

HALCYON JULIÆ, Reich., from Anseвата, in New Caledonia. There must be some error here! It *must* be a young example of *H. sancta*. Our bird never has the inside of the wing white; in *H. julia* and *H. chloris* it is always so in the adults, and more or less so in the young. We have splendid specimens of *H. julia* exactly according with Mr. Sharpe's plate and descriptions, from Aneiteum, Tanna, Vate, and St. Bartholomew, New Hebrides—also *H. chloris* from Vate or Sandwich Island, which we believe is a new habitat; at least we have no record of the species being found so far

south. Both these species are considerably larger than *H. sancta*; and unless the Ansevata bird comes fully up to the measurements given by Mr. Sharpe in his monograph, we should hardly be inclined to accept its being an example of *H. julia*.

We have a solitary specimen of a King Hunter from the Solomon Islands (Makira harbour, we believe) that almost accords with *H. vagans*, Less., from New Zealand, but with no other of our specimens. It is, however, rather more blue in tint, and the underside of the tail-feathers darker, the light spot in front of the eye is larger, and the bill is also larger.

It can at once be distinguished from *H. julia*, *H. chloris*, and *H. sancta* by the absence of the well-marked supercilium and the rich colour of the underparts. In these it exactly accords with *H. vagans*,—the coloration of which, by the way, in Mr. Sharpe's plate is not at all well rendered, the real tint being a warm cinnamon-colour; under wing-coverts cinnamon-red, as in *H. vagans*. If these differences should be constant, we can hardly suppose that it is merely a race of *H. vagans*, Less., and propose to bestow on it the appellation of *H. tristrami*, in honour of our friend and fellow-worker in Polynesian ornithology.

[Note.—I have since received from Mr. Layard three specimens of this bird, which, both from its size and coloration, must be different from any species hitherto described. In this opinion Mr. Sharpe concurs.—H. B. TRISTRAM.]

XLVI.—*Note on Pachycephala assimilis of J. Verreaux and O. Des Murs.* By E. L. and E. L. C. LAYARD.

WE have long been puzzled by not finding the *Pachycephala* (*Muscicapa*) *xanthetræa* of Forster, having in our eye the coloured figure in the 'Cruise of the 'Curaçoa,' p. 376, pl. 12, and having long since satisfied ourselves that the ruddy-coloured species which we find about Noumea was none other than *P. assimilis* of MM. Verreaux and Des Murs. Lately, however, in reading over the description of the former (*loc. cit.*), we were struck with the discrepancy between it and



J.G. Keulemans lith.

Hanhart imp.

HALCYON TRISTRAMI.